

Fall events will continue despite Council's wishes



EMILY LLOYD | FILE

Students walk in the 2019 Homecoming parade. This year's Homecoming parade will be different from the traditional parade and will stick to a campus-only route for COVID-19 precautions. Only campus organizations can participate in the parade.

Councilman Tye Parsons said it's a 'Super spreader waiting to happen.'

MADELINE MAPES
News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

As the green leaves fade to bright yellows and reds to brown, they fall and the crisp air sweeps them away. With this change comes pumpkin patches, leaf piles and autumn holidays. A variety of fall events take the place of summer fun in the sun, but the joy of summer still wavers in the air despite the lingering pandemic.

Although many fall events in the Maryville community and on campus have been canceled or changed, some still remain. And there are people who continue to look at the change of the season as an opportunity to bring people together or help them unplug in a world of quarantine and isolation.

Usually at Homecoming community members, students and faculty gather on Fourth Street in town to watch the parade, cheers and excitement flowing through the crowd.

This year, according to the Office of Student Involvement Homecoming page, the parade will be held on a route that strictly passes through campus and only allow on-campus parade participants. The parade will be streamed live on Youtube for those who wish not to risk exposure.

Despite the risks that come with holding Homecoming events during a pandemic, these fall activities that so many anticipate ev-

ery year are a great way to bring people together and give them a sense of community.

In a Northwest Missourian article, Homecoming events for campus are listed. The parade, Walkout Day, a blood drive, the annual canned art contest, a scavenger hunt involving plastic pumpkins along with many other activities for students and community members to participate in will be held throughout the week of Oct. 4-10.

Another event that many Maryville citizens look forward to every autumn is the annual Downtown Trick or Treat.

Families get to frolic through town dressed in their chosen Halloween costumes. The little giggles and familiar sound of, "Trick or Treat" ring out from the children going from store to store asking for candy.

Despite Maryville City Council's urgent request that the annual Downtown Trick-or-Treat be canceled this year because of the coronavirus, the event will still go on.

The Maryville Pride Lions Club is sponsoring and organizing the event. The group has reached out to local schools, most of which have agreed to email flyers to parents. The club has also encouraged local businesses to participate, but to set up shop outside of their buildings. Maryville Pride Lions Club President Kathy Rice said in the Nodaway News Leader that she wanted to provide a sense of normalcy for the community.

Although normalcy is something everyone is longing for, Maryville City Councilman and Grants Coordinator at Northwest Tye Parsons posted his dissent of the event in a Facebook post Oct. 5.

In the post, he said he was disappointed that the event's plans were continuing. He called the event a "super spreader ... waiting to happen."

FULL STORY ONLINE: [NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](https://www.nwmissourianews.com)

★★★ELECTION 2020

Student senate urges voter registry among students

SAMANTHA COLLISON
News Reporter | @SammieCollison

Every other year, election season is a bright spot amid the standard duties of keeping the gears of Student Senate greased year to year for the Governmental Affairs Committee.

In 2018, the committee helped 1,200 Northwest students register to vote through a TurboVote link in Canvas funded by the committee. Student Senate President Kira-Jones led the initiative with his then Governmental Affairs Co-Chair Grace McCarty.

In this presidential election year, the committee again reached out to campus to encourage civic engagement.

Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Thomas Goldizen said the committee wanted to reach as broad an audience as possible this year, especially with many students needing to get registered and a ballot request sent as early as possible.

"My committee's goals for this upcoming election have been helping to inform the student body of their right to vote and the importance of registering to do so," Goldizen said. "We drafted an email that was sent out Sept. 28 to the entire student body to encourage students to register."

The email linked to voter registration for all 50 states but focused on the four-state area: Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. Goldizen said the committee also created and posted a flyer that will be put up on the bulletin boards across campus with the QR codes for direct access to the four-state area voter registration sites.

Voting early is twice as much paperwork as voting in a typical election year.

The committee brought Nodaway County Clerk Melinda Patton to campus Sept. 11 to help students register to vote outside the J.W. Jones Student Union and help students navigate the process of requesting a mail-in or absentee ballot from their home counties.

Patton said though only three students registered to vote that day, the team answered many questions about voting absentee or by mail.

Unlike most Northwest students who are eligible to vote in a presidential election for the first time this year, Goldizen is a nontraditional student with more elections and years of life under his belt. He said his views on voting haven't changed, but he has gained a desire for younger students to think for themselves.

"It saddens me that the students who came straight from high school already have their minds made up for who they are voting for based on what they are told or who their friends are voting for without doing the research for themselves," Goldizen said. "As adults now, it is important to make these important decisions yourself. Be a leader, not a follower."

Voter registration in Missouri closed Oct. 7, but registration is still open until Oct. 13 in Kansas, Oct. 16 in Nebraska and Oct. 24 in Iowa.

"As a word of wisdom, if you want your voice to be heard, be sure to place a vote in the election," Goldizen said. "If you don't vote, your voice won't be considered as important in most folks' eyes. Let your voice be heard by casting your vote at the polls. Be the voice of change."

COVID-19 cases starting to surge again

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

After the seven-day rolling average of new COVID-19 cases in Nodaway County continuously stayed between five and seven for 16 consecutive days and the county's active case count dipped below 60 in mid-September, the virus is starting to surge again.

Unlike the intense spike Nodaway County saw in COVID-19 cases in late August, when more than 7,000 Northwest students returned to Maryville for the resumption of in-person and hybrid classes, the uptick in new cases now has been moderate and tempered, led not by Northwest students or student-aged residents, but by adults over the age of 30.

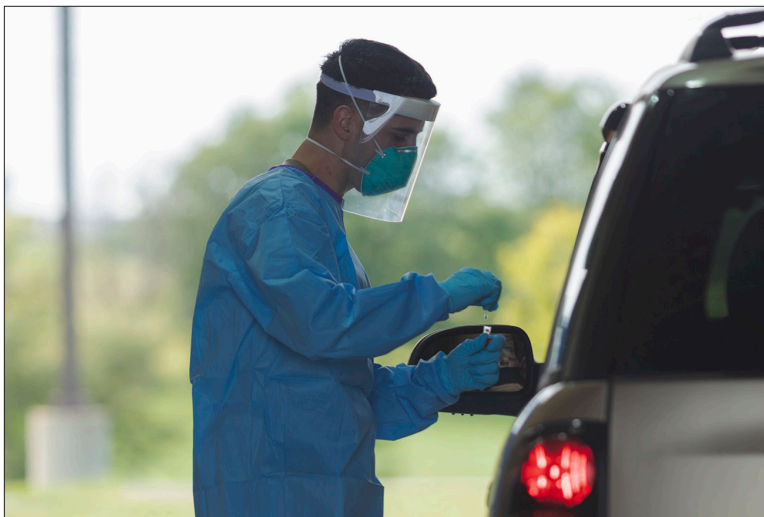
The latest trend in positive tests, which comes after weeks of declining cases throughout the county, has drawn the ire and concern of Nodaway County Health Department Administrator Tom Patterson, who said he doesn't expect cases to

return to the levels the county saw in late-August, but who is nonetheless disappointed by the latest developments.

"I think we're gonna be running this elevated state for a little bit. I don't know. I don't feel as good as did the last time we talked," Patterson said, in reference to his last conversation with The Missourian Sept. 23, when the active case count in the county was 57. "I thought it would be a little better now, but it's not."

On Northwest's campus, though, things are better. Cases have largely subsided among students over the last month or so, with active cases among University staff or students dropping from a high of 189 cases Aug. 31 down to a semester-long low of seven active cases Oct. 4 — now up slightly to 11 active cases in the Northwest community as of Oct. 5, the latest available data at the time of publication.

At no point in the last three weeks has Northwest reported an



RACHL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Active COVID-19 cases in the county ballooned from 50 up to 93 cases Oct. 5. Of those cases, 11 are tied to the University.

active case count higher than 22. But in the same time frame, active cases in Nodaway County as a whole have ballooned from 50 up to 93 Oct. 5 — an increase largely driven by adults over 30, who have

accounted for more than 64% of new COVID-19 cases in the county since Sept. 19.

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Maryville High School added the Spoofhound Bookshelf to its library, where students can take one new book home per month to build their at-home libraries.

Avid readers see support

Spoofhound bookshelf grows at-home libraries

SIDNEY LOWRY
Missourian Reporter I @TheMissourian

Students at Maryville High School are able to take home one new book every month from the Spoofhound Bookshelf to help them build their at-home libraries.

Kim Offutt, a librarian in charge of facilitating the books, said she was approached by Kelley Baldwin, a parent who was curious if there was something similar to the Scholastic Books Program for kids at the high school level.

“I researched programs that of-

fered something similar for older students,” Baldwin said. “I wasn’t able to find anything, so I floated the idea to Ms. Offutt and we created our own program with approval from the administration.”

Offutt said the main goal of the program was to provide any interested student with one book a month to help them grow their own libraries. Since its opening in January, 188 books have been given to students.

Baldwin grew up in a home with a bookshelf in almost every

room, and as she grew up, she noticed that was not the case in many other homes. She wanted to create this program so students at the high school could have their own books and share them with others.

“With more books in the home, they can also be used by siblings, parents and anyone else interested in reading,” Baldwin said. “It can create a ripple effect.”

With fundraising and donations from the community, Offutt and Baldwin are able to compile a list of books students might be interested in owning themselves and have them in the selection of books offered.

Maryville High School Junior Kasey DuChien said she thinks this program is helpful for students in all grade levels and allows people to experience things they otherwise wouldn’t without reading.

“It’s a great chance for students and kids to open their eyes to a new world and be allowed to experience new things through literature that they might not be able to in a small town like Maryville,”

DuChien said.

With the help of the Spoofhound Bookshelf, DuChien said she would be able to read during the summer when the high school library is closed.

The creation of this program was meant to help students and families continue reading even while they’re at home, but much more than expected has come out of the program.

“One aspect I love about Spoofhound Bookshelf is that it is a collaboration among the school, community and students,” Baldwin said. “Maryville is such a special place and each day we are reminded of it because of kind and caring people who work together.”

For students looking to find a book for their own home libraries, they can find Offutt in the library for the special selection of books, and for those looking to donate to the Spoofhound Bookshelf, they can bring gently used books to Offutt or make checks payable to Maryville High School.

Student fills role in vacant regent position

SAMANTHA COLLISON
News Reporter I @SammieCollison

For almost two years, around 50 Student Senate meetings and 20 Board of Regents meetings, there has consistently been an empty chair at the table, waiting for approval from Gov. Mike Parson to fill. From Jan. 15, 2019 until Sept. 21, 2020, the voice of the student body in the form of the student regent was absent.

Shortly before the first Student Senate meeting in person since the start of the pandemic, sophomore Connor Thompson received the email saying he had been approved as the student regent.

Janay Orange, the last student regent, graduated in December 2018. At each meeting throughout the spring 2019 semester, then President Alyssa Lincoln repeated in her opening report that the applications for the student regent had been sent, and they were waiting for approval on the governor’s desk. Through the rest of her presidency, and the entirety of 97th Student Senate President Asma Hassan’s, the applications waited.

In January, Thompson was a freshman and an associate member, attending meetings in the audience section of the J.W. Jones Student Union ballroom and offering student input, but not having an official vote from the tables at the perimeter of the room. Thompson applied the following month.

“I applied because I felt like I could help give the student body a strong voice and make sure that our opinion is heard,” Thompson said.

Student Senate President Kirayle Jones said while he was not involved in the application and interview process for the position, since that was handled during the spring semester, he was pleased to hear that the position had been finally filled.

“The role of the student regent is to work as an additional liaison and an advocate for our students,” Jones said. “It’s important to have a student regent in Senate because they get to see what great work that the students and the organizations are doing and express that to some of the highest individuals on our campus.”

While his application was pending, Thompson got more involved. He ran for an official seat at the Student Senate tables and was elected as a sophomore class representative and the treasurer. He also serves as vice chair of the Student Senate organizational affairs committee, vice president of Tau Kappa Epsilon, vice president of risk management on the Interfraternity Council and a member of the St. Jude Up ’til Dawn executive board.

“I feel good about taking the position,” Thompson said. “I’ve been in a lot of leadership positions, and they’ve taught me how to lead and represent.”

Taking on this role is a challenge during a pandemic when meetings of all kinds are a blend of in person and virtual and organizations can’t meet, stalling the most fundamental function of Student Senate, but Thompson said he hopes he can be flexible.

“I’m worried about COVID and how this impacts my ability to reach out, but I’m working on some creative ways to reach out,” Thompson said. “I’m excited about impacting the policies of Northwest moving forward.”

In order to be more accessible to students, Thompson plans to create his own student regent Twitter account and host virtual town hall-like meetings to interact with students in addition to giving weekly reports at Student Senate meetings, which have transitioned back to being held in person starting with the Oct. 6 meeting.

“I think Connor Thompson is a very hardworking individual,” Jones said. “Connor cares about every organization he is involved in, as well as each member he interacts with. I chose Connor Thompson to be one of my running mates for the Student Senate Executive Board because I could tell his passion for our University and the students.”

The Crown

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Joni Sherlock

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RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs for Title IX and Equity Will Sabio presents changes to the program at the Black at Northwest event hosted by the Black Student Union Sept. 18 at the Raymond J. Courier Pavilion Park. Sabio, who previously worked at Hawai'i Pacific University, was hired by the University last October.

Title IX rework alarms VP of Affairs

ABIGAIL STARR
News Reporter | @abbeystarr5

Northwest’s Title IX policy was updated by the institution’s Title IX and Equity unit, specifically imposing changes to the hearing process following a complaint, after the U.S. Department of Education finalized its own regulations on the policy.

Updates followed a change in regulations from the DOE regarding how hearings would be arranged for complainants and respondents to share their testimonies. Complainants are victims who report an incident regarding sexual harassment, assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking. Respondents are those individuals accused of committing the act.

Complaints to the office must come from a current student or applicant engaged in educational programs and/or activities for the office to take action. The respondent in the complaint must meet the same requirements for the Title IX office to begin an investigation.

This is a change from last year’s policy, limiting incidents to only those that occur on campus by Bearcat community members. If an incident should occur off campus and/or by someone not involved with Northwest, the Title IX office will redirect the complainant to other resources such as Maryville Public Safety.

Since the revision, the Title IX and Equity unit is encouraged to informally resolve a complaint if both parties are willing to agree. If not,

the complaint moves to a live hearing. This change concerns Will Sabio, assistant vice president of student affairs for Title IX and equity. In previous years, the complaint would have undergone investigation within the Title IX office and reached a decision on their own. In a hearing, both parties must be present with an adviser of choice. If one party does not have their own, the institution will provide them one.

A hearing would be run by someone experienced in managing live hearings to field objections, move the process forward and prevent the victim from being revictimized. Each party can be cross examined by the other party’s adviser of choice. Sabio fears the arrangement will be intimidating to potential victims.

“From my lens, I have concerns about some of the regulations and what they say and what they imply and what they could mean to victims who have the courage to report after they’ve experienced trauma,” Sabio said.

According to Title IX records from the 2019-20 academic year, there were nine Title IX complaints including four incidents of sexual assault, two reports of sexual harassment and two complaints regarding dating violence. This semester, there’s been one incident of sexual assault, one report of sexual harassment and two complaints of stalking as of Oct. 5.

The Missourian asked for additional, more detailed Title IX documents from the University

via a public records request, but Northwest sought a \$135 fee in return for preparing and providing the records.

But as Sabio suggested, as the Title IX policy evolves into a more complicated process, its goals can become diluted by the jargon.

In an email to The Missourian, University Wellness Services counselor Dana Mallett recommended complainants know what to expect in a hearing beforehand to lessen anxiety and overcome a fear of the unknown.

If the complainant wishes, the University Police Department can run a concurrent police investigation with the Title IX investigation. Title IX makes decisions based on a preponderance of evidence, meaning more likely than not the action in question happened. Police find respondents guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

“It’s our responsibility under Title IX to prove the respondent responsible not to prove the respondent is innocent,” Sabio said.

When it comes to complainants who do share their experience, counselor Courtney Koch said active listening is key to making the victim feel validated. Mirroring the language a victim uses prevents mislabeling his or her trauma.

According to Section XVIII of the policy, a victim’s sexual history cannot be used to aid or discredit his or her recount of a Title IX violation unless it could prove the respondent in question was not tied to the incident. This prevents respondents and/or their advisers from at-

tempting to group a violation with a separate pattern of behavior.

“I hope to see all stigmas around sexual assault eliminated from society so sexual assaults are more easily prevented and survivors of sexual assault are more likely to be believed and supported,” Koch said.

“It’s our responsibility under Title IX to prove the respondent responsible not to prove the respondent is innocent,”

-WILL SABIO

The Northwest Coalition Against Violence, also known as The Light-house Project, connects victims to advocates at any time a day, seven days a week. Wellness Services’ Green Dot program provides trainings for bystanders and the violence prevention initiative focused on reducing power-based personal violence, like stalking, sexual assault, and dating violence, by intervening directly, getting someone to step in or creating a distraction to diffuse the situation.

Title IX aims to protect students, faculty and staff from sexu-

al assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking that occurs on campus.

Reports can be made over the phone or via email to the Title IX and Equity office, the University Police Department or directly to Sabio.

Assistant Director of Prevention, Outreach and Education B.K. Taylor advises victims to reach out to the Title IX office or the resources it partners with.

The Title IX Office works with Green Dot, Maryville Public Safety, the Nodaway County Sheriff’s Department, Residential Life, the Wellness Center and the University Police Department to provide training and support to those who aid survivors of sexual assault. The Northwest Police Department received a \$300,000 grant to help these survivors over the next three years with the goal of bringing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, or SANE nurses, back into the Maryville community.

Until a victim is ready to report, Mallett recommends establishing a support system to discuss benefits and potential difficulties with each option and to support the student with whatever they choose.

“Ultimately, being supportive and offering opportunities for the survivor to make their own choices and be informed as much as possible are things that can be helpful for individuals in this situation,” Mallett said.

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Oct. 8

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Oct. 5
There is an open investigation for stealing.

Oct. 4
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Dieterich Hall.

Oct. 1
There is an open investigation for stealing at the Foster Fitness Center.

Sept. 28
A summons was issued to Dwan L. Marshal Jr., 23, for fraudulent use of a credit card at Colden Hall.

Sept. 27
There is an open investigation for property damage at Lot 11.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Oct. 3
A summons was issued to **Amaya R. Woods**, 18, for driving while intoxicated, possession of marijuana and an equipment violation on the 800 block of South Main Street.
A summons was issued to **Khloey N. Forst**, 19, for minor in possession on the 600 block of North Mulberry Street.
A summons was issued to **Chloe A. Troshynski**, 18, of Rockwell City, Iowa, for minor in possession on the 300 block of West Seventh Street.

Sept. 30
A summons was issued to **Dwan Marshall Jr.**, 23, for wanted on warrant — failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.

Sept. 29
A summons was issued to **Hunter D. Smith**, 24, for not having a valid driver's license and speeding on the 800 block of West South Avenue.

CRIME LOG ONLINE:
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ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

The Northwest Jazz Ensemble and Studio Jazz Ensemble performed an outdoor concert at the Pavilion Oct. 5. The concert, where musicians wore face coverings while performing, featured music by only Black composers including Count Basie and Stevie Wonder.

Jazz notes echo at fall concert

ABBEY HUGO
Copy Editor | @abbey_hugo

The Northwest Jazz Ensemble and Studio Jazz Ensemble took the jazz to the grass 6 p.m. Oct. 5. at the Raymond J. Courter College Park Pavilion, as COVID-19 mitigation efforts prompted them to host their first concert of the semester outside. As the concert began, the sun drifted behind the Pavilion’s rooftop, casting a golden glow over the surrounding trees’ barely yellowing leaves and the crowd of 100 spread across the lawn. An additional 170 people popped in over the livestream, watching under the glow of their phone or computer instead. It was a calm, 70-degree evening, an improvement from the windy afternoon rehearsal that forced performers to put bricks on their music stands just to keep them from falling over and Director William Richardson to invest in 300

clothespins to secure music sheets earlier in the day. “Terrible” is the word Richardson used to describe the rehearsal, which senior trumpet player Delany Lynam echoed with the word “rough.” With the use of bell covers over the ends of the horns, players wearing masks and 6 feet of separation, it’s hard enough to listen to one another without the added challenge of the wind, Lynam explained. They just had to trust that if they were in time with the director, they were on time with the group, even when the wind died down for the performance. For some like senior audience member Sarah Horseman, the weather is what drew them to the concert. “My roommate and I decided to come to the concert as a way to get out and really enjoy the weather while it’s still enjoyable,” Horseman said. “I think having a jazz concert outside really adds to the

atmosphere.” At one point, the jingle of a dog collar harmonized with the music as a couple walked by with their pup, an occurrence that would be uncommon at an indoor performance. This was one of two performances the jazz bands will have this semester. For those who didn’t also perform in the Bearcat Marching Band’s pep rally a couple weeks ago, this was their first time playing for an audience in over six months. It was a pleasure some weren’t sure they would have this year. “Yes, we are making music for us, especially with the uncertainty of even having performances. Rehearsing is a lot for ourselves, for us getting to play, and getting to play in front of people is just an added bonus,” Lynam said. “Everyone’s been in quarantine and just not been able to do the same things, so any chance to do anything like is — means the world to just one person, that’s enough.”

In many ways, the concert was a sign of the times. With masked players spread across the length of the Pavilion and many audience members wearing masks while sitting atop their blankets, COVID-19 mitigation efforts were apparent throughout. And as a tribute to the Black Lives Matter movement, the setlist exclusively featured songs composed or made famous by African American artists, like “Big Dipper” by Thad Jones and “Chameleon” by Herbie Hancock. “It seemed like this is the time. Whether you’re a fan of the Black Lives Matter movement or not, it seems — I wasn’t alive in the 1960s; I was born in 1969 — but it feels kind of like that (the 1960s) right now,” Richardson said. “I think it’s right to focus on great African-American art, and this was a great way to do it. And to start off the year, I was more than happy to do that.”



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COVID-19 takes toll mentally, emotionally

NATHAN ENGLISH Opinion Editor @nathan_english



It started with a simple sore throat. I normally would have paid little to no attention to this symptom any other year, at any other time, but it’s 2020, so I assumed the worst. And I was right. The next morning I woke up with muscle aches, fever and chills. I spent the better part of that day trying to convince myself I had come down with a case of the flu or strep and that it wasn’t COVID-19. It didn’t work.

I made the responsible decision to get tested the next day and then sit at home and patiently awaited the inevitable. As the Wellness Center nurse was swirling the Q-tip in my nose — not the most pleasant experience of my life — I was trying to discern how I could have caught COVID-19. I had been careful and worn a mask, I hadn’t gone to any large gatherings, and I had rarely been out of the house other than for work or class on-campus, but I got it nonetheless.

I wasn’t really actively trying to find where I got it to warn others, rather I was seeking a person to blame. Someone I could use as a scapegoat. I began thinking of people in classes, attempting to recall every time one of my fellow Bearcats decided to pull their mask off or got closer than 6 feet to me.

I spent the whole day playing the lead of “CSI: Coronavirus,” and then I got the call from the nurse telling me I was in fact positive. My heart sank.

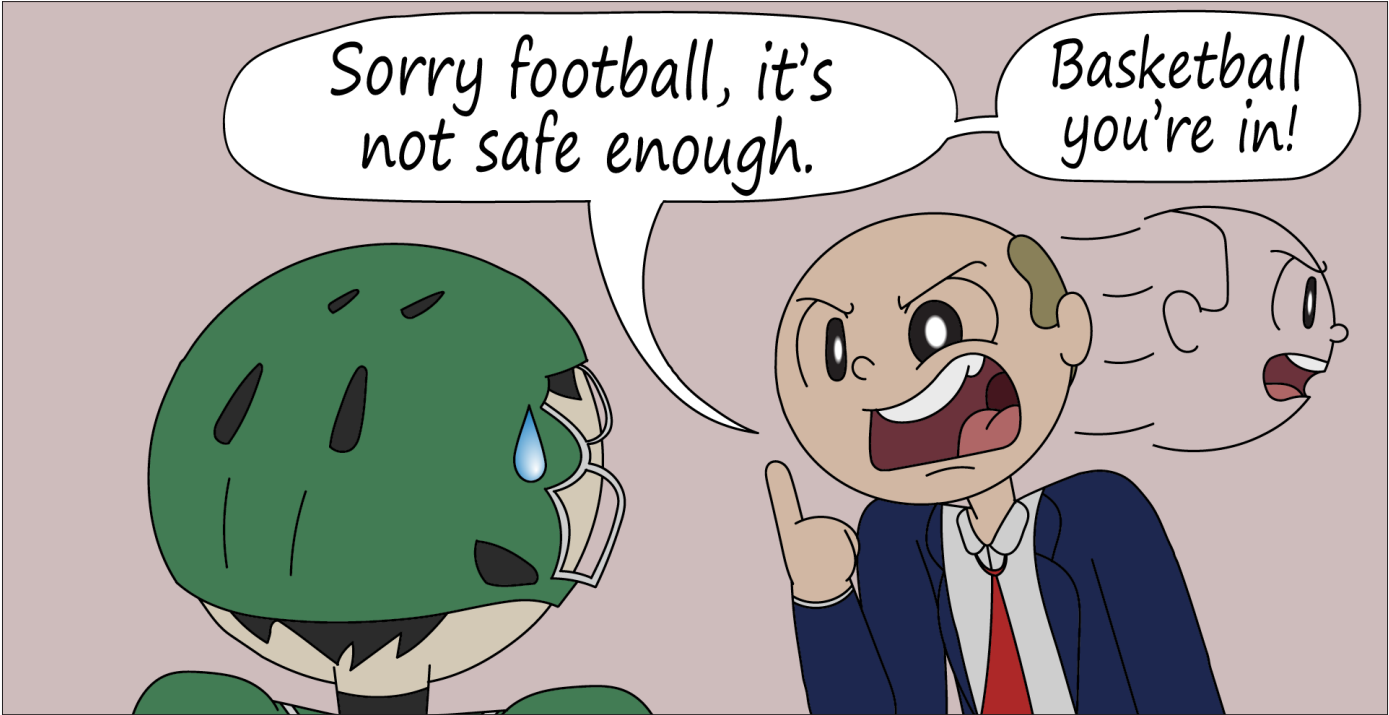
I barely heard the rest of the conversation as she asked me about my symptoms and told me how the process would work. I wasn’t really worried about myself, health-wise. I was in relatively good shape — I’m sure I don’t eat healthy enough, but what college student does? — and had no preexisting conditions. That’s not to say that this disease that has killed close to 210,000 people in the U.S. isn’t serious, it’s just not where my head was.

My frantic search for someone to blame had turned to guilt. I felt personally responsible for disrupting the lives of the people I’m around every day. My friends that I had come in contact with in the last week, the people that would be contact traced from my classes and told to quarantine and my fellow staff at the Missourian that would have to pick up some of the slack since I couldn’t perform all my duties remotely. I wasn’t reckless; I didn’t try and catch the coronavirus to “get it out of the way.”

It makes sense why people would suppress that they have it. It’s certainly a moronic and dangerous decision, but if I have learned anything about humans, it’s that we will do anything to avoid being social pariahs. Nobody wants to be the bad guy that gets in-person classes shut down, and because I had tested positive, I felt like I had contributed to that.

I got pretty lucky. I had relatively mild symptoms. I had a stockpile of food and entertainment. I had a loving family that constantly checked in on me and I had a system in place to help me for the 10 days I was in isolation. However, many people are not so lucky. Thousands don’t have the proper resources to deal with extended absences from work, access to proper healthcare if they have more serious symptoms or a dedicated support network.

So for the friendly PSA of the column, do your part and reach out to those in isolation, and you’re not a bad person if you get COVID-19.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

MIAA makes decision?

League caves to pressure with no real plan for safety

After making the decision earlier this semester to suspend fall sports until at least Jan. 1, citing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its commitment to the health of student athletes, the MIAA announced Oct. 1 tentative plans to go ahead with a winter sports season.

The decision, though, seems to be one based more on increasing public pressure to ignore health experts and play sports than it does with the safety of student athletes and coaches — one of the same guiding principles the MIAA claims to have followed in making its original decision earlier this fall.

“The health and well-being of MIAA student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and our communities continues to be the Association’s top priority,” said Pittsburg State President Steve Scott, the chairperson of the MIAA CEO Council, in the association’s Aug. 13 announcement.

Despite what Division I conferences like the SEC and the Big 10 have done over the last several months, and despite the pseudo-seasons that Division II schools like Missouri Western and Scott’s own Pitt State are trying to cobble together now, the MIAA’s decision to suspend fall sports was the right one to make.

And while the MIAA hasn’t fully committed to going ahead with winter sports, noting in the Oct. 1 announcement that it would “continue to monitor NCAA, CDC, and local government guidance,” the league still plans on starting the men’s and women’s basketball season in mid-November, a season, or at least a start time, that the league should pump the brakes on.

If it wasn’t safe in August for student athletes, and perhaps more urgently for coaches and administrators more likely to be killed by COVID-19, how could it be safe now? Those health concerns — which were purportedly at the forefront of the MIAA’s August decision regarding fall sports — should only be further amplified now, with new daily COVID-19 cases continuing to trend higher than they were two months ago.

Additionally, if the threat of the virus was pertinent enough to cancel sports like football and cross country in early August — competitions that take place outdoors, where distancing is inherently easier — it’s not logical to conclude that basketball is somehow safer. There is nothing about a sport that pins five closely guarded athletes against five closely guarded athletes in

a gym for 40 minutes of intense competition that seems at all COVID-19 friendly.

It wasn’t the consistently high number of new COVID-19 cases in the region that gave the MIAA CEO Council pause, nor was it the realities of a sport like basketball, which simply don’t allow for social distancing or much else that might help prevent the spread of the virus.

Instead, the only thing that seemed to trip the council up was the updated NCAA’s testing requirements, which would require basketball players, coaches and other personnel in daily contact with players to get tested for COVID-19 three times a week — a rate that probably won’t be feasible for Division II programs until saliva testing, or other low-cost testing measures, are more widely available. Nowhere in its 400-word press release did the MIAA mention the health or safety of its athletes or coaches, which seems on-par with the decision the association came to.

The MIAA’s decision — which is perhaps a liberal use of the word “decision,” since the Association’s approach amounts more to waiting and seeing than any real conclusion — is, of course, a welcomed sight for most of Northwest’s winter sport athletes, particularly those who had their shot at a championship taken away by the pandemic last spring.

But the same athletes aren’t likely to pay the ultimate price if the MIAA’s season goes awry, if an outbreak spreads from a league game to a team practice to the classroom of an at-risk faculty member.

No one wants this season to be canceled or postponed. No one wants to take another season away from these student athletes. Still, no one can deny the actualities of this pandemic.

Perhaps cases in the region will subside or a vaccine will emerge. Perhaps cheaper, faster testing will become more widely available. Perhaps the MIAA can find a safe, feasible route to a winter sports season.

But if the league can’t, and if it really values the health and safety of its players and coaches, it’ll have to pull the plug on a season that probably shouldn’t be happening. And it’s clear the MIAA CEO Council — a group of University presidents and leaders from Division II schools across the region — is somehow unprepared to make that call.

YOUR VIEW:

Should winter sports take place this year?

SAM REEVES Sophomore Sports Media



“I think if they can be done safely, then yes, but I think safety needs to be the top priority.”

SABRINA SMITH Sophomore Biomedical Sciences



“I definitely think that winter sports should take place, but I do think that a lot of social distancing mitigation should happen. ... I just think that it will kind of bring a little bit of normalcy back to college, especially since it’s super crazy right now.”

KAILEE FORD Freshman Political Science



“I think as long as it’s safe to do so, ’cause I know that there’s some colleges who are allowing football and stuff like that. I mean as long as they’re safe and as long as they just take enough precautions and if anything does go wrong then they’ll handle it well, then I think it’s OK.”

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat is excited for Homecoming

To many, Homecoming may seem like an arbitrary celebration completely constructed to make people that pay money to have friends and know three letters of the Greek alphabet feel like their organizations are important, but to me, it’s so much more than that. Even with COVID-19, I’m still really excited for Homecoming, and you should be too.

Yeah, there’s no football game for Homecoming this year, but random buildings around campus are decorated to be space themed, so are we really gonna miss it? The

Super Bowl would still be fun without football, right?

At least we still have the best Homecoming tradition in place: the parade. Who doesn’t love random county officials handing out off-brand Tootsie Rolls to toddlers who probably shouldn’t have candy? Oh wait, actually they closed the parade to those not associated with the campus, but at least we will still get some free swag from Northwest with “Bearcats Care” printed on it. Those pencils really make up for the rise in fees, if you ask me.

There won’t be a variety show this year, which is the closest thing Northwest has to SNL. We will miss out on some Hollywood-level scripts somehow relating Northwest football to Star Wars performed by people who clearly are only participating to get out of the scheduled hazing — I mean float making.

A few things are still the same though. We still get to vote for people we have never met or heard of into a position in a monarchy — that’s not how that system of government works. We also still get to

have parties. And I’m sure all of my fellow Bearcats will be responsible with their choices this weekend. Yes, those 35 people crowded around the beer die table live in the two-bedroom house they are standing in front of.

It will look a little different, but it will be no less fun. Homecoming rules, ’Cats by 90.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

★★★ELECTION 2020

CHANGES ALREADY MADE

KENDRICK CALFEE
News Editor | @calfee_kc

Randy Strong doesn't consider himself a politician. He never has, and he likely never will. In fact, he winces at the sound of his name and "politician" in the same sentence. Even so, being a politician in at least the slightest of ways became necessary for Strong to hold the position of Nodaway County sheriff.

In his mind, Strong remains an investigator above all else. His more than 41 years in law enforcement, his previous election victory and the campaign message he is pushing this year are three-of-a-kind in a hand of cards Strong will deal this November. He won't stray from them, or the message he hopes to illustrate.

His message to voters echoed quotes from 2016, when Strong said he actually never intended to be sheriff, but entered the race when the right people approached him asking him to. The walls of Strong's office added illustrations to his words.

"I had the right people approach me and say 'we need a change,'" Strong said. "I would have never decided to do this on my own."

A short four years ago, by less than 1,000 votes, Strong, 64, defeated the same opponent he will face this November. County voters made it a close race but did not reelect Democrat Darren White, who was the face of law enforcement for the county from 2009 to 2016. Receiving 54% of the vote in 2016, Strong said he knew a bucket list of changes would await him at the door of his new office.

Since then, Strong has made various changes in the department, shifting how the county jail operates, making personnel changes and focusing on accelerated training for staff and deputies, to name a few.

The 14 deputies, one full-time detective and department as a whole continue to see Strong as a driving force for changes that — at least in the new sheriff's eyes — were necessary. An elected position was unfamiliar territory for Strong, but law enforcement was anything but that.

Now a third generation law man, Strong spent most of his time with Maryville Public Safety, but he also served two years with the Missouri Office of General Inspector General before becoming a Holt County Sheriff's Deputy.

Strong, slated as the Republican candidate for Nodaway County Sheriff again this year, sees the role as mostly a title. Investigator was the title he held most of his career in cases that received recognition from five crime documentaries, various national entities and people, including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and former U.S. President George W. Bush.

In this year's campaign, Strong touts his more than 40 years of experience and work leading to the end of cases spanning several years.



RANDY STRONG

ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN
Sheriff Randy Strong stands with his personal gun during their mandatory gun safety training. Strong ditched his typical uniform during training to feel more relaxed.

SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN 2016:

— Working to bring a regional dive team to Nodaway and surrounding counties

— Refocused approach on narcotics

— Sexual Assault Response Team

— Worked to help create consolidated 911 center

— Revived the Major Case Squad for Northwest Missouri

MAKAYLA POLAK | NW MISSOURIAN

Incumbent sheriff is building his platform on accomplishments

Two prominent cases from Strong's career include the killing of an FBI informant in 1990 and a sexual assault case he worked while campaigning in 2015 and 2016.

FBI informant Christine Elkins' body was found in the Missouri River by Strong and his fellow team of investigators, who were honored for their detective work on a case that spanned seven years.

The second case included Strong's long-time friend Scott Wedlock, who at the time was Holt County Sheriff. Holt, being a poor county in Missouri with a jail built in 1890, was understandably overwhelmed when a pair of serious sexual assault cases became the face of crime there.

Wedlock hired Strong in 2015-2016 as an investigator for those two cases that, even for Strong and his more than 30 years of experience at the time, were heavy loads.

A 13-year-old girl was traded to a truck driver for narcotics by her father. The girl was kept without clothes in the back of a truck, stuck with her abuser who traveled across the country. Strong was able to put the case together and catch the suspect. Within the first 10 minutes of interrogation, Strong got his first piece of confession.

"When you can save somebody — and keep someone else from being abused — that's very rewarding for me," Strong said.

The sheriff talked extensively on homicide and sexual assault cases he worked, touting his experience in gaining confessions for crimes and detective work that led to the end of cases spanning several years.

Attempting to avoid controversy from previous years, Strong did not say much about the sexual assault case that garnered the small Missouri county national attention, but he has mentioned the documentary "Audrie & Daisy" at various events he has attended in the community.

In the formative years of the feminist movement, when women's groups began speaking out on various issues, including sexual assault cases nationwide, Strong said the city of Maryville and Nodaway County as a

whole was not detached from the outcry for equality.

A white man boxed in the middle of a geographical square of people who don't like change all that much, he was able to observe those same people side with women on issues pressed for change. After 30 years of progress, Strong couldn't fathom why that case from a night in 2012 felt more like a case in 1948.

"I want people to know we've changed the way we do business on that," Strong said. "We work with victims advocates, get proper training for my staff, work with SANE nurses; we all come together."

Strong also emphasizes training for his deputies, making dealing with victims a priority.

The fire range on the outskirts of Maryville near Mozingo Lake is a frequent spot where deputies learn to fire carbine rifles and handguns efficiently.

The lead detective for Nodaway County, Travis Cochenour, said this training is necessary for deputies to hone in on skills necessary for the line of duty.

"It's not easy," Cochenour said. "Randy always makes it a challenge for us. It's a good thing."

Other training events like these were cancelled or postponed because of issues relating to COVID-19 this year, which Strong himself tested positive for in late August.

Strong is unapologetically a Second Amendment supporter, a firearms enthusiast even. He said this started at an early age, the first time his father took him out hunting.

The rare Remington Model 8 mounted up behind his desk attested to that truth, the first piece of historical art that grabs any of his office visitor's attention upon entry.

Mirroring an election he already won, Strong said this year's race is something that has crept up on him amid the COVID-19 global pandemic. Strong's focus this year was less on his opponent, White, and more on keeping the office running as smoothly as it had before the pandemic.

"I think the people have seen the change in professionalism," Strong said. "We are striving to be the best that we can. When I finally decide to hang it up, I want my legacy to be that we were well trained, we were professional, and we served our county to the best of our abilities."

READ MORE ONLINE

A full version of this story with a closer look at Randy Strong's campaign platform policies is available online at [NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](https://www.nwmissourianews.com)

FOOTBALL
CONTINUED FROM A10

Northwest football, at the moment, isn't practicing for anything aside from getting better. The MIAA released its schedule for the 2021 football season, which is the closest foreseeable competition for the Bearcats.

So along with coronavirus mitigation efforts, football programs across the country are left practicing for the unknown. Of course, motivation to practice could perhaps become a struggle with no end goal in sight.

The Bearcats are hoping that doesn't become the case.

"As of right now, week in and week out, it shouldn't be hard at

all," Braden Wright said about staying motivated. "It's been so long since we've been out on the field, so really it's fun being out here regardless. Now it'll start becoming a grind, of course, not knowing if there's going to be games or not, but I think we look back to it like we're little kids again — we just wanna be out here in any aspect that we can. We're just excited to be here right now."

Despite an uncertain future, the Bearcats aren't sitting on their hands. The program wants to play games as early as this fall, as the MIAA said in a release Oct. 1 each member institution can schedule no more than four joint practices, scrimmages, or competition with outside institutions or other MIAA members.

The Bearcats want their hard work to pay off. They're hoping that's sooner rather than later, with the number of days in between their return to practice and whatever lies ahead are uncertain.

"We've talked a little bit about it with a couple of other schools about potentially being able to do something — not sure what that'll look like yet," Rich Wright said. "I've shared that with the guys, and it kinda gives them a carrot at the end of it. So, hopefully, we can make that work."

"It's exciting. Of course we want to play if that opportunity presents itself," Braden Wright said. "If we have a game, great. For now, we're gonna put our heads down and keep working, regardless."

WINTER
CONTINUED FROM A10

McCollum mentioned last year that, at times, his team was perhaps lacking the hunger compared to other times.

The men, McCollum said, are very hungry to prove what they weren't able to last season.

"Even if you go back to last season, some of the postseason things — I'm not a big individual awards guy unless it adds fuel to the fire — but I think a lot of our guys were frustrated with that process as well," McCollum said. "They'll make sure to remember that and get themselves to a high level, motivationally."

Florida Southern's Brett Hanson was the recipient of the Bevo Francis Award, which is given to the best small college basketball player. Northwest then-junior forward Ryan Hawkins and then-redshirt sophomore Trevor Hudgins were two of the 14 finalists for the same award.

Hawkins' 2019-20 season included 22.7 points and 7.4 rebounds per contest while shooting 56% from the field and 45% from deep. Those numbers were good enough for Hawkins to be named the MIAA Defensive Player of the Year.

Last year, Hudgins averaged 19.6 points and 6 assists per game while shooting 53% from the field and the exact same mark from three. Hudgins' season was enough for the guard to be named the MIAA Player of the Year.

For Florida Southern last year, Hanson averaged 22.4 points, 6.9 rebounds and 4.8 assists per contest, along with being named the NABC Division II Player of the Year.

As for the women, last season ended in the second round of the MIAA Tournament with an 80-52 loss to Emporia State.

"It kinda jumps up on you when you look at the schedule and see that November 19th date," Northwest women's basketball coach Austin Meyer said. "It's exciting. I'm really excited for our kids. ... Obviously, things could still change, but it's exciting to know we're planning to go through with it. Hopefully, it'll be smooth and we can keep everybody healthy."

Meyer is specifically excited for the addition of the freshman class to complement what the program has returned from last season. Prior to the loss from Emporia that effectively ended their season, the women returned to the MIAA Tournament for the first time since the 2013-14 season.

In the first round, the Bearcats upended Central Oklahoma, marking Meyer's first postseason win at the helm of the women's program.

The MIAA doesn't release a schedule for indoor track and field teams, as it's like that every year, which allows each institution to attend and compete in whatever events they choose.

Despite having a decision made to follow through with winter sports, there's still more than a month until the season gets underway. In the meantime, there's no telling what could happen.

"I almost don't trust it, to be honest," Peterson said. "I don't trust myself. I don't trust — I feel like we've given people hope so many different times, just to pull the rug out from underneath 'em. So, to know everybody feels good about it right now is good, I don't want to downplay that. Me, personally, I struggle and I'm worried about getting to November 10th and then having to say something. We'll cross that bridge when we get there, but it is good news right now that we feel like we can do this."

Since March, Peterson has dealt with the intricacies of being an athletic director amid a period in which athletics haven't been feasible. He's mentioned that he's lost sleep, and still does sometimes. He's mentioned the daunting responsibility that's accompanied his job, specifically noting that he doesn't like not having answers for people.

At least now there are some answers available, Peterson said.

"It's a win, for right now," Peterson said. "I don't know that, in my career as athletic director, I haven't had very many of those in the last six-to-seven months. So, it's been good news. I'm excited for the kids that they can continue to prepare for games on the schedule. Now we can focus on our jobs and putting on the best environment we can with what we can."



Two Maryville girls golfers practice swinging their drivers Oct. 5 at Mozingo Golf Course in Maryville.

Maryville golf prepares to host district tourney

MORGAN GUYER
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Maryville girls golf finished fifth in the MEC Tournament Oct. 7 in St. Joseph, Missouri, behind an individual fifth place finish (98) from freshman Cailyn Auffert.

The Spoofhounds shot a team total of 444, with senior Lauren Padgitt shooting a 111 and freshman Ainsley Watkins finishing with a 117. Freshmen Lauren Jaster and Brinley Conn topped off the scoring for Maryville with a 118 and 121, respectively.

Maryville is now readying to host the Class 1 District 4 Tournament Oct. 12 at Mozingo Golf Course with a tee time of 9 a.m. Auffert is now looking forward to her first district tournament as a Spoofhound.

"I'm really glad that we are playing at home," Auffert said. "I'm nervous, but I'm also very excited."

Auffert has seen success this season at Mozingo. She'll go into the district tournament with two first place finishes at the course in Maryville.

"I think just because I have played it so much, I know what to do," Auffert said.

The Spoofhounds rounded out their regular season during the past two weeks, as they finished second in a triangular in Savannah, Missouri, Oct. 1 with a team score of 222, while Savannah shot 210 and LeBlond finished last with a 245. Padgitt led the way for Maryville with a 52, while Auffert shot a 55.

The Spoofhounds then moved onto their fourth match of the season Oct. 5 at Mozingo, where they dropped a duel against Savannah 238-248. Both teams played the much tougher back nine, with Auffert shooting a 57 on the par 36 to lead the way. Padgitt finished right behind her with a 60. Maryville coach Brenda Ricks was excited to test her team in preparation for the upcoming district tournament.

"The girls weren't very crazy about that; the back is just a more difficult nine," Ricks said. "I wanted to give the ones who are going to districts the opportunity to play that as much as possible before Monday."

Maryville will play Auffert, Padgitt, Jaster, Watkins and fresh-

UP NEXT

MHS Districts

9 a.m. Oct. 12

Mozingo Golf Course

man Casey Phillips in the tournament. Despite the tough back nine, Ricks saw some bright spots that can carry over to Monday.

Ricks has experience in hosting districts at Mozingo, but it is still an exciting opportunity for the team.

"Well, I've hosted it a lot and it takes a lot of work," Ricks said about the tournament. "It's exciting to play our home course, and that's a definitive advantage. I'm really looking forward to seeing how the girls do."

As they move towards the end of the season, whenever that might be, Ricks has been happy with her team so far.

"I am just totally pleased with these girls, and they are having fun," Ricks said. "I told them I don't care about the score, I'm hoping that if they have a bad shot they can go to the next one and mentally do that."

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MHS claims first win of 2020 season

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

Maryville cross country ran down its first team win of the season at the Bishop LeBlond Invitational Oct. 3. After a couple weeks of unconventionally structured meets, it seemed like this meet would restore a sense of normalcy for the Spoofhounds.



“It felt like a real meet, you know?” Maryville coach Rodney Bade said. “There were a good number of schools. It wasn’t a wave start, didn’t have small numbers of people, and they allowed spectators. It was nice. It had that atmosphere, and the kids ran really well.”

Along with leaving the meet with a first place plaque, three ‘Hounds went home with their own hardware. Senior Garrett Dumke led the pack with a first place time of 16 minutes, 28 seconds and 19 milliseconds, a time he didn’t expect to run.

“Going in, I thought the course wouldn’t be as fast as it was,” Dumke said. “I was really just going for the first place finish, so coming down the backstretch and seeing what my time was, I was really surprised to know I was going that fast during the race.”

Coming off of a hard effort and large improvement at the Gans Creek Classic Sept. 26, Dumke had no intention of pushing a fast pace. However, with good weather and a winning mindset, the cards were in his favor to run a good race.

Trailing close behind, juniors Jag Galapin and Cale Sterling secured second and third place finishes, respectively. Galapin crossed the line

UP NEXT

MHS @ Cameron
4:15 p.m. Oct. 13
Cameron, Missouri

in a personal record time of 17:09.60, shaving 10.4 seconds off of his previous best. Sterling also hopped on the personal record train, finishing in 17:24.93, which is 9.77 seconds faster than his previous best.

Despite running a new best, Sterling needed a little kickstart from his coach to get past his sluggish start.

“Cale had a little bit of a rocky first mile or so,” Bade said. “I got pretty in his face, as much as you can when you’re out on a course. It’s not like basketball, I can’t pull him aside and take a timeout, so I just pointed out some things that we talked about, and I could see him slipping a bit.”

Since Bade has coached Sterling since his seventh grade season, it wasn’t hard for him to spot his uninspiring first mile. Bade’s mid-race callout woke Sterling up and put him on pace.

“My legs were really tired going into that race,” Sterling said. “I was feeling just really tired, and Bade was saying he was seeing me settle. He really doesn’t want me to do that. He got on my case, he rose his voice up a lot, which he doesn’t do very often, and was like, ‘This isn’t where we run. Come on, you’re better than this. You know this.’”

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest cross country continues to prepare for an upcoming season this fall. The Bearcats will be competing in an upcoming conference meet, not associated with the NCAA, pushing for a nationals meet.

Northwest to compete in pseudo-MIAA meet

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter | @t_smit02

Northwest cross country spent the entirety of the summer wondering if it’d get the chance to compete in the spring.

The MIAA announced Aug. 14 that all fall sports were suspended until at least Jan. 1, 2021.

A recent reversal of that decision has the Bearcats readying for competition as early as this fall.

The Bearcats are able to do this because the MIAA is allowing the schools to choose whether they want to compete against other schools or not. Northwest is taking advantage of this opportunity and putting its athletes in the meet.

“We got word we are going to have a conference meet, not associated with the MIAA, and those who get in the top 40% in each conference



qualify for a non-NCAA Nationals meet,” Northwest junior runner Jake Norris said.

This allows for all of the conferences in the NCAA to compete within their respective conference to push towards a Nationals meet. This meet will not be in association with the NCAA, as the NCAA has canceled all Division II fall championships for the 2020-21 school year.

The Bearcats have been in training for the past few weeks, preparing for the upcoming track and field season. Even though they’ve been training for track and field, the athletes who are in cross country are now putting miles on their legs to prepare them for this conference meet.

“We have been training for this potential season with the main focus on indoor,” Norris said. “But now, we are holding off on indoor

UP NEXT

NW @ Team Championship
Oct. 30
Wichita, Kansas

work for the remainder of cross country season.”

With this being said, some of the Bearcats have indifferent emotions of this fall season happening. Instead of pushing it off, they have been able to implement workouts for both the fall and spring.

“I have mixed emotions about the season, even though it is very exciting to get the opportunity to compete. The back and forth of whether or not we’ll be racing this season has been extremely emotionally exhausting,” senior runner Keely Danielson said. “I, personally, am in the process of returning to running after being quarantined, so the idea of racing in less than a month is a little overwhelming.”

This abrupt decision to compete has changed the way the Bearcats are going about their fall. Some are coming off of quarantine, and others have been able to train the whole time. No matter which category each athlete falls into, the ‘Cats feel they are prepared for what is ahead.

“We had our best work ever last Friday on the track,” Norris said. “So I feel both the men’s and women’s team are ready.”

Danielson mentioned that their team workouts haven’t been any different than they would have been if the Bearcats were having regularly scheduled competition this fall. Besides some setbacks, the Bearcats feel they are more than prepared to head into this meet.

As they move forward to prepare for this meet, they feel they don’t need to change much about their daily routine. They look forward to competing this fall, and in their spring season of track and field.

“Cross country provides a base for distance runners in track,” Norris said. “So even though we’re doing cross country workouts, they still benefit us for track in the spring.”



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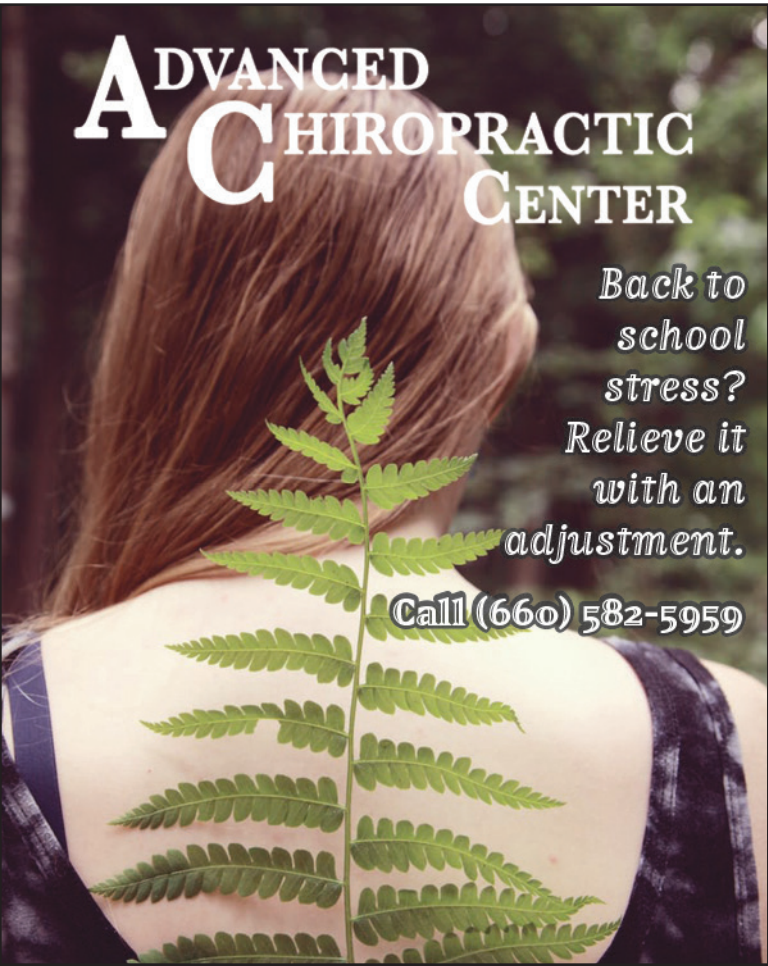
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MHS aims for first ranked win on road

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

As Maryville foot-
ball enters Week 7, the
Spoofhounds find them-
selves in familiar territory. For the
fourth time this season, the Spoof-
hounds will be facing a ranked op-
ponent, and they will be on the road
for the fifth time.

Maryville (3-3) will be travel-
ing to Kansas City, Missouri, for
the second time this season, but this
time matching up with Lincoln Col-
lege Prep (4-1).

Maryville’s record against
ranked opponents this year is not
among the bright spots for the team,
currently standing at 0-3. The three
losses were dealt out by Blair Oaks
in Week 1, St. Pius X in Week 4 and
Odessa in Week 6.

Maryville’s three losses are to
teams with a combined record of 16-1.

However, with each week comes
improvement, and Maryville coach
Matt Webb is not scared of the chal-
lenge this schedule holds.

“I think it makes us better as a
football team,” Webb said about the
tough schedule the Spoofhounds
have faced. “When you play good
people, it makes you play good.”

The last time the ’Hounds shared
a football field with the Tigers was
Oct. 20, 2017, in the Class 3 State
Tournament. Maryville put on an
offensive clinic, winning 69-26.

Lincoln saw a total rebuild of
its program after the 2017 season.
Since the loss to Maryville, the Ti-
gers have gone 21-6.

Besides updating facilities and
the coaching staff, Lincoln’s roster
is composed of top-tier talent. The
Tigers have four of the top Rivals.
com ranked players in the state of
Missouri. This includes their senior
quarterback Howard Brown, who
stands at 6 feet, 2 inches and weighs
275 pounds. Brown recently com-
mitted to Iowa State University.

The Spoofhounds’ defense will
have a tall task to conquer come



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville High School running back Matt Goodridge blocks a player during the Spoofhounds’ 62-7 win over rival Chillicothe Sept. 11 at the ’Hound Pound.

game time, but senior lineback-
er Drew Spire is using last week’s
matchup against Odessa to improve.

“The game last week gave us a lot
of confidence,” Spire said. “Coach
called this a turning point in the sea-
son; I think we’ll turn it around.”

Stopping Brown will be easier
said than done for the Spoofhounds.
Brown’s physical attributes alone
are unlike anything Maryville has
seen from a quarterback this sea-
son. The ’Hounds’ offensive line-
men all fall short of the quarterback
in both size and weight.

Brown’s size creates a resem-

blance of former, now late Univer-
sity of Kentucky and New York Gi-
ants quarterback Jared Lorenzen.
Proper tackling form will be of es-
sence, as Brown is not going to fall
by arm tackles.

The Tigers’ offense has provided
Brown with speed and raw talent.
The Spoofhounds will have to be
well disciplined, as Lincoln College
Prep places emphasis on multiple
players in their offensive schemes.

Maryville will have to keep
pressure on Brown to force him to
make erred throws, while watching
runs from both the backfield and jet

sweeps. Webb knows this game will
take a full defensive effort.

“It’s an all-11 defense; we have
to do better as a defense,” Webb
said. “It’ll be a monster effort to
try and stop the talent they have at
quarterback, at running back and
the receivers. It’s going to take an
all-11 commitment to play good de-
fense against these guys.”

On the offensive side of the ball,
Maryville is hoping to establish the
ground game early, as it’s failed to
do so against ranked opponents.

Against Odessa, both two touch-
downs for the Spoofhounds came

UP NEXT

MHS @ Lincoln Prep
6 p.m. Oct. 9
Kansas City, Missouri

from the arm of junior quarter-
back Connor Drake. The loss to the
Bulldogs was the second game this
season Maryville failed to score a
touchdown rushing.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville High School setter Macy Loe blocks the ball during their game
against Rock Bridge Oct. 6. The Spoofhounds won two sets, but the Bruins
overpowered the Spoofhounds, taking the match 3-2.

Volleyball’s hot streak halted by Rock Bridge in fight to finish

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter | @t_smit02

Maryville volleyball
faced a tough 5-4 loss to
Class 5 opponent Rock
Bridge Oct. 6 at the ’Hound Pound.

The Spoofhounds picked up a
non-conference matchup with Rock
Bridge, who went into the matchup
with an 11-1-1 record. The Spoof-
hounds went into the matchup with
a 12-1 record on the season.

Rock Bridge traveled up from
Columbia, Missouri, which is
something out of the ordinary dur-
ing these times of COVID-19.

“Coming into this match, I felt
we are a pretty evenly matched
team,” Maryville coach Miran-
da Mizera said. “This was the first
time we did a scouting report and
our girls were able to learn what it
means to key in on certain players.”

The ’Hounds faced a team with
similar skill sets as them, which
meant for a strong defensive game on
both sides. The ’Hounds took the first
set 25-14 behind a dominant offens-
ive showing by seniors outside hitter
Serena Sundell and setter Macy Loe.

The Spoofhounds came out in
the second set with some miscom-
munication. The ’Hounds were all
over the court and couldn’t seem to
find the right rotation to be able to
put things together.

“I think Rock Bridge came out
stronger in the second set,” Sun-
dell said. “We got stuck in too many
rotations and let them go on runs,
which hurt us.”

After dropping the second set,
the Spoofhounds were able to stay
calm and collected for the third. It

UP NEXT

MHS @ Benton
6:15 p.m. Oct. 8
St. Joseph, Missouri

was a back and forth set, with each
team having momentum. It was a
matter of who could go on one fi-
nal scoring spree.

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ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Sophomore guard Diego Bernard was named to the MIAA All-Defensive team and the All-MIAA third team for the second year in a row March 3 after 13.8 points per game and 6.6 rebounds per game this regular season.

Winter sports get green light from MIAA

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

When the MIAA CEO Council announced Aug. 14 that fall sports were suspended until Jan. 1, 2021, it also said a decision on winter sports would come Oct. 1 at the latest. The council's decision made on that deadline is to move forward with winter sports as regularly scheduled, a release from the MIAA said Oct. 1. "It's good news, for now," Northwest Director of Athletics Andy Peterson said. "Obviously, it's still fluid, but it's good to know we're not postponing right now. I still think there's a bit of reality in that everything could change in two weeks, or tomorrow, or later this afternoon, so there's that part of it, too. But right now, it's good news." Northwest men's and women's



basketball 2020-21 schedules start Nov. 19 against Northeastern State in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The men's 2019-20 season was ended a day prior to the start of the Division II Central Region Tournament in Maryville. The Bearcats were three wins away from the Elite Eight in Evansville, Indiana. Prior to the season coming to a halt, the Bearcats won the 2019-20 MIAA regular-season championship and their fifth consecutive MIAA Tournament championship. "With this whole thing, everything's been so in limbo that we've had to do an even better job of just staying present and trying to get a little bit better each day," Northwest men's basketball coach Ben McCollum said. "I would like to play, if safe and feasible, the whole season. I'm still one of those that thinks these kids deserve a chance to play, as long as it's safe, obvi-

ously." Since the Bearcats' 78-76 win over Missouri Southern March 8 in Municipal Auditorium, McCollum and company have been preparing for a season in which they didn't know would be played or not. "It's a great teaching moment, to show your team to make sure, again, that you stay present," McCollum said. "If you can stay present on just getting a little bit better, like today in practice, and not think about if you're gonna have a season, or how much of a season, I think those are the teams that are gonna win in the end." Of course, as aforementioned by Peterson, the concern is the feasibility of continuing to conduct sports once the season starts. In Week 4 of the NFL season, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Tennessee Titans postponed their game to Week 7 due to an outbreak of posi-

tive COVID-19 cases by the Titans, making it the first game of the season to be modified. A day before kickoff, the Kansas City Chiefs were forced to postpone their Week 4 game against the New England Patriots after Patriots' quarterback Cam Newton tested positive for the coronavirus. "If you look at the elite levels, like Major League Baseball, who has unlimited resources, they had to cancel some games," McCollum said. "I could only imagine what would happen at our levels if the quarantine rules and all that stuff remains the same. You're gonna have kids that are either asymptomatic or symptomatic that have to sit out for an extended period of time. If there's still the 14-day quarantine, you have almost your whole team out."

SEE WINTER | A7

Football practices with hopes of game

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

There were 251 days in between Northwest football's final game of the 2019 season and the MIAA CEO Council's announcement to suspend fall sports competition until Jan. 1, 2021. There were 36 days in between the MIAA CEO Council's announcement and a reversal of that decision, one that allowed each member institution to independently schedule games as early as this fall.



“Our nucleus is good, but we’ve gotta build some depth, and that’s what we’re hoping to do this fall.” -RICH WRIGHT

for example,” Rich Wright said. “It’s an area where some of these younger guys, I mean, you think about this, ‘So my redshirt freshmen, you wanna talk about some crazy expectations. Those guys come in a year ago, they’re here for fall camp, they practice our stuff for two weeks, they run a scout team all fall long, they never had spring practice, they never had fall camp, then we’re kind of expecting them to matriculate in and be relevant, and they’re just not yet.’ It’s been a good opportunity for those guys to see where they’re at and where they’ve gotta go.” Northwest graduated 17 seniors between winter and spring ceremonies last school year, including nine offensive and eight defensive players. In that group was four-year starting tight end Marqus Andrews, who was considered a focal point of the Bearcats’ offense during his tenure with the program. Along with Andrews, the running back duo of Isaiah Strayhorn and graduate transfer Justin Rankin graduated as well. Despite the growing pains of



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest football started practicing Sept. 28 with the hope of being able to play at least one game this fall.

trying to foster new talent and implement new schemes on both sides of the ball, the Bearcats are just excited to get back to doing what they regularly would’ve been if not for COVID-19. “Over everything else, it’s fun. Football’s a game, it’s meant to be fun,” Braden Wright said. “It’s been fun to be able to get back out and be around the team again. Obviously, it’s a little different. The locker room atmosphere is completely different. We can’t be hanging out in there, can’t be hanging out in the training room, anything like that. From the football field aspect, it’s

just great to be back out and playing the game we all love again.” Of course, guidelines from the CDC and NCAA have adapted the manner in which the program goes about its daily routines. Practices don’t look like they used to. They now include drill periods of under 15 minutes to reduce the possibility of exposure in the chance an athlete was carrying the coronavirus. Weightlifting sessions are spread out through the day, with groups limited to maximize the ability to contact trace if required. Rich Wright said that if the

Bearcats want to do what they hope to do, they have to adhere to those mitigation efforts. He’s hoping the program can continue those efforts with minimal interruptions. “They’re ready to get back to trying to be as normal as possible. That’s something that we’ve got to continue to work towards,” Rich Wright said. “I think we’ve got a good group of kids. We’ve got a good group of guys coming back. Our nucleus is good, but we’ve gotta build some depth, and that’s what we’re hoping to do this fall.”

SEE FOOTBALL | A7